

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

We spent years combating communism, and authoritarian controls occurring in other countries. Here now, we have an authoritarian control of our communication systems, which are clearly on the path to a more totalitarian government. Where diverse opinions are not appreciated but rather squashed and where those in power believe that only their views are worthy of consideration is as anti democratic as it can be. This must stop. This administration time and again, including the FCC trying to put more control into the hands of few, are trying to take down the path away from democracy. This must stop.